

Passage: Hebrews 11:1-4

Title: Blind Faith? Not at All!

Summary: Christians are continually accused of having “blind faith”, join us today as we begin our study through Hebrews 11 known as the Hall of Faith, and we will see that our faith is surely not “blind faith”, but it is built on something that we all have claim personally. Join us as we dig deep into a wonderful passage of scripture.

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

*(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....*

Recap 1-10

In chapters:

- 1 and 2 we saw that Jesus is superior to the angels, and we saw His deity and His humanity.
- In Hebrews 3 we saw that Jesus is superior to Moses”. We saw that Moses could lead them out of Egypt, but he couldn't lead them into the Promised Land, he couldn't lead them into their rest because of unbelief.
- But chapter 4 we saw that Christ is our rest, and we can claim His rest by faith.
- In chapter 5 we saw that the works are complete because He is our High Priest,
- and chapter 6, Jesus is our full assurance, there is nothing else we could ever go to.
- Chapter 7, we saw that we have a great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Chapter 7 is so vital to our understanding. Rest will only come from knowing “It is Done”, our High Priest has done it all, there is nothing for us to do. He is far superior to any priesthood on earth, or set of rules that man can try to bind us to.
- Chapter 8 we saw a beautiful picture of our High Priest Jesus Christ, that He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, a Covenant that would not be written on stone or with ink on a paper, but that He would write His laws on the very tablets of our heart, His divine finger writing and touch our very hearts.
- Chapter 9 we went into the Holy of Holies and saw the work of the High Priest, and we saw our High Priest, Jesus, pay our sins in full.
- Chapter 10 is almost a total wrap-up of the whole epistle. The author goes over the main points again, puts in a warning not to add to or take away from all that we have studied – the superiority of Christ. We continue in chapter 10 with the study of the sacrificial system, and we see that it was all just a shadow of the true and perfect Sacrifice, Jesus Christ:

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our “Position” (sons/daughters of God), through the “Provision” (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world)

The Gospel:

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

You are perishing, because you sin separates you from the Holy God, and you will die in your sin and be cast into everlasting hell if you don't do something about it.

What must you to be saved? The Philippian jailer asked the same question, and the Apostle Paul said this,

Acts 16:30–31 (NKJV) ³⁰ And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Believe means (Recognize – Repent – Receive - Resurrection)

- *Recognize* your sin offends and separates you from the Holy God, (Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23).
- *Repent* (means turn from and turn to – it's a change of direction), and you must be willing to turn from your sin and turn to Jesus, (Acts 3:19).

- *Receive* – Ask to receive God’s provision (punishment for sin), His Only Begotten Son who went and died on the cross, offering to trade places with anyone who asks. He takes your sin and punishment, and you get to be a son/daughter of the Heavenly Father. (Romans 10:9-10).
- *Resurrection* – the power of the Gospel (good news) is the resurrection, sin and death could not hold Him, and it is proof-positive that God accepted the sacrifice, and the trade (substitute), Jesus instead of you, (Romans 10:9-10).

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

So, here we begin chapters 11-13 we then turn to application (duty) of all that we have studied in the last 10 chapters.

Doctrine & Duty / 3 Great Virtues

So, in writing his epistles (most likely wrote this epistle), Paul’s typical method at the outset was to address issues of doctrine and to follow with exhortations to duty. He would talk about position—who we are in Christ—before he would deal with practice—how we should live and behave. And such is the case in this epistle to the Hebrews. The first ten chapters have been concerned with doctrine, position, and what Christ has done for us. In the remaining three chapters, the author will make practical application. In fact, in each of the three remaining chapters, he will address one of the three great virtues...

(1 Corinthians 13:13 NKJV) *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

Chapters 11-13:

- In chapter 11, we read about the walk of faith.
- In chapter 12, we are reminded of the wisdom of hope.
- In chapter 13, we see the way of love.

It All Flows Together

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our “Position” (sons/daughters of God), through the “Provision” (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world)

It’s not that the author of this letter is suddenly saying, “Okay, now we’re done with doctrine, so let’s switch gears and talk about something practical.” No it all flows together. Keep in mind the Epistle to the Hebrews was written to keep Jewish believers from being sucked back into religious traditions. That’s why chapter 11 is so essential to the discussion of the first ten chapters. “I know it’s tempting to go back to that which you can see with your eyes, smell with your nose, and touch with your hands. But don’t do it,” the author pleads, “for now you are called to something entirely different. You are called to walk by faith.”

The end of chapter 10:

(Hebrews 10:38 NKJV) *Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*

(Hebrews 10:39 NKJV) *But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*

Stay in the faith of the “Position”, through the “Provision” and don’t be draw back, drawn out!

Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith

- [Faith in Worship \(the Worship of the Lamb\) – 11:4](#)
- [Faith in Walking – 11:5-6](#)
- [Faith in Working – 11:7](#)
- [Faith in Waiting – 11:8-22](#)
- [Faith in Warring – 11:23-35](#)
- [Faith in Whatever – 11:35-40](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Definition of Faith

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11:2 NKJV) For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

(Hebrews 11:3 NKJV) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Albert Einstein

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly longing to get back to his laboratory work. One night as they were driving to yet another rubber-chicken dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (a man who somewhat resembled Einstein in looks & manner) that he was tired of speechmaking.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've heard you give this speech so many times. I'll bet I could give it for you." Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not? Let's do it!"

When they arrived at the dinner, Einstein donned the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the room. The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions expertly.

Then a supremely pompous professor asked an extremely esoteric question about anti-matter formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in the audience know that he was nobody's fool. Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the professor with a steely stare and said, "Sir, the answer to that question is so simple that I will let my chauffeur, sitting in the back, answer it for me."

Application of the Story

I love that story, and I see a personal application for me in my faith. As long as I know the answer, as long as I am working within a realm that I am familiar, I am comfortable and confident. But once I have to leave that realm, that is where my comfort and reliance of self ends, and I need help, I need the Father. What is my simplest definition of Faith? The need of the Father.

Where I end, is where faith begins.

(Hebrews 11:1 NKJV) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Substance of things hoped for, there is substance to faith. Evidence of things not seen. It is believing God to keep His word, though there may not be any evidence of it at the moment. All I have is the promise of you Father, but that is sufficient! And I rest on that! The phrase "things not seen" is literally

“things not yet seen.” Faith is the substance of what you know is coming your way, even though it is not yet seen. Faith isn’t wishful thinking. No, based upon the Word of God, faith says, “Whether I see it presently, understand it intellectually, or experience it immediately, I know what God says He’ll do, He will do.”

The Greek word for “substance” is “hupostasis”. It is a scientific term, meaning the opposite of hypothesis or theory. It is that which rest upon facts. In chemistry it would be the chemical which settles at the bottom of the test tube after you have made an experiment. The substance of our faith was proved out on the cross at Calvary and through this Word of God that lies in your hand right now.

Faith is the sixth sense that perceives the spiritual and eternal. As Oswald Sanders puts it, “Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.”

The bible says we walk by faith and not by sight, so true, but I have personally seen God’s Word come to physical sight in my life personally, and many of you that I have had the blessings to come to know personally. He did all these things, He said He would do.

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to set me free – from me! – And He did!

Mark 10:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.” ²² But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me a rock, solid and sure in my faith! - And He did!

John 1:42 (NKJV) ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to dine with a sinner such as me, regardless of my past! - And He did!

Luke 19:5 (NKJV) ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to teach me His Word, which is His very Heart. Jesus wants to give me His heart! - And He did!

Mark 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring me, before I ever even saw Him! - And He did!

John 1:48 (NKJV) ⁴⁸ Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”

Jesus looking upon me with love, desiring to make me whole! - And He did!

John 5:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “Do you want to be made well?”

It is not a hypothesis or theory, it is evidence that I can see is real.

(Hebrews 11:2 NKJV) For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

So we will study through some 10 specific names and their stories, another 6 in name and generalized reminded they are men/woman of faith, and stories that add up to literally “millions” of people walking by faith. So the heroes of faith in this chapter, but they are just the few of the many, who were the “just who lived by faith” and did not draw back.

Hebrews 10:38–39 (NKJV) ³⁸ Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.” ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Christian your greatest testimony of faith will not be walking on water, planting a church, preaching to the multitude, saying arise take up your bed and walk to a lame person..... your greatest testimony of faith will to finish faith, finish your race, and not draw back or quit.

(Hebrews 11:3 NKJV) By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

You are the First Listed

So we start a whole list of the Hall of Faith, and guess who tops the list? You!

The Invisible Things

If you believe God spoke the worlds into existence, you lead the parade of those who obtain a good report. You are the first mentioned here in the Hall of Faith.

[\(Genesis 1:1 KJV\) In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.](#)

A very fascinating statement because they didn't know anything at that time about atomic particles, about electrons, and the protons and so forth, these invisible things, the atoms that make up the material universe. And yet by faith, they believed that the things that are seen were made of things that are not seen!

The Hebrew word for create is "bara" – it means to create out of nothing.

Faith, it takes great faith to believe in the Creation account, and it takes equal faith to believe in evolution.

- Creation: Someone created everything.
- Evolution: Nothing created everything.

No Such Thing as Blind Faith

They say, they talk about blind faith, no, no, no! There is no such thing as blind faith. The man of faith actually sees much more than a man who has no faith. He only sees what is visible and obvious, but the man of faith sees far beyond and sees much more. They call Christians narrow minded and simple, that is so far from the truth; for Christians see the unseen, the big picture, and Christians see the deep things, things man can't explain. It is not Blind Faith, but a faith that sees.

To see a magnificent building, or high-flying airplane, we all say there was intelligent design behind it. But see a hummingbird, and say it came from nothing, or that man just happen by chance, two cells becoming one, and the amazing life that becomes, that takes a lot of faith to believe it came from nothing.

[Psalm 139:14 \(NKJV\) ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.](#)

But, even believing in the Creation account, that God said it and it was, is not truly faith. Believing the God who spoke the world and you into existence, and who said..... John 3:16, and you received it, that is the faith God is speaking of that is the beginning of all faith, the faith in the Provision, that makes us positionally His sons and daughters.

[John 3:16 \(NKJV\) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.](#)

Now he begins to list a hall of faith by name. Men, who believed the promise of God and the Word of God and were honored because of their faith in God. He begins with Abel

1.) Faith in Worship (The Worship of the Lamb) – 11:4

(Hebrews 11:4 NKJV) By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Abel's Sacrifice vs Cain's Sacrifice

Abel's sacrifice, was a lamb (a young sheep), Cain's was the work of his flesh (tilling of the land, the sweat of his brow, look what I did).

[Genesis 4:2-5 \(NKJV\) ² Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. ³ And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. ⁴ Abel](#)

also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,⁵ but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

All Faith Begins Here – Worthy is the Lamb

All faith begins here, it is believing in the Sacrifice of the Lamb for the forgiveness of sin, that there is no other way (as we have studied here in Hebrews). It is us saying:

Revelation 5:11–13 (NKJV)¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

All Faith begins with saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain".

Abel got it, Cain never did. Abel learned it from his father Adam, Cain sang the "I'll do it my way" song.

Adam never the Same Again / Living in the Light

You see after the fall I believe that Adam was never the same again. There really is no mention of Adam walking with God again in the cool of the day like he did before the fall. Adam would always be living in the light of, "I remember what it was like before the fall." He would remember walking side by side with the Father, talking, laughing, asking, that sweet communion and fellowship. But after the fall, things would never be the same, Adam was now living in a fallen state, subject to the consequences that came with the fall.

He would see what it took to cover him, and bring him back into the presence of His Creator..... a Lamb: *Genesis 3:21 (NKJV)²¹ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.*

For Adam, he would look back at what once was (walking in the cool of the day with the Lord) and miss that innocence and intimacy with his Creator; for us, we are looking forward to that day where we will literally walk face-to-face with God, in heaven, finally out of this fallen world and fallen body. All because our position is secure because the Provision that was provided.

Note: It has always been a lamb, we see that all the way through the scriptures, but I believe the reason it is not called out specific as a lamb in Genesis 3, is that the lamb was not identified specifically until the Law came down on Sinai, and thus preventing man from worshipping the lamb and making an idol out of the lamb, like they did with the golden calves. But we see the thread from the Law to Jesus (John 1:29), that is has always been a lamb.

Tunics of skin: In order for Adam and Eve to be clothed, a sacrifice had to be made. An animal had to die. Without shedding of blood there is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Adam would take the Lamb

Things of this world wouldn't excite him anymore, how could they after he had walked so close to the Father. The boys probably thought it strange when every now and again he would pick up a lamb and head into the woods, alone, to go be with his Father. Eve would say, boys give your father some time alone. Then Adam would come back with peace and contentment on his heart, but it would always be temporary.

One son would Get it / The other Wouldn't

One son, Abel, he would get it, he would see and understand why Adam would take the lamb, Abel would take it to heart what it all meant. But for Cain, he would never get, it would always be his way. Abel got it, he saw his father, he knew what it meant, what the lamb was for. So when God said bring me an offering, he knew it was a lamb, and a lamb only.

The lamb was a substitute / God never indebted to Man

The lamb was a substitute of what was to come, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God. The lamb sacrificed was a picture of God being the giver, the life-giver, the greatest gift, His only Son. But for Cain it was his religion, his works trying to appease God. His way was giving to God, making God the receiver, thus the debtor, that is the root of all false religions, I've done my works, now God responds to it. God is always the initiator, He is always the giver, man is always the responder, the one who is indebted to Him. He is not the magic genie in a bottle. People think they can pay Him something, but what could man ever give God that could compare to what He had given, the blood of His only Son.

(Hebrews 9:22 NKJV) And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

John 1:29 (NKJV)²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

There are only two religions; there is the religion of fig leaves and there is the religion of God's perfect provision through Jesus. (Guzik)

Covering ourselves with our good works is like Adam and Eve trying to cover themselves with fig leaves. Our good works are like monopoly money—great for monopoly, but not legal tender. Your good works are essential to what it takes to live out your life, but they are not legal tender before God.

Adam and Eve were clothed in a garment that was purchased with the life of another. We are clothed with a garment of righteousness that was purchased with the life of another, Jesus Christ.

Abel had Faith in the Sacrifice

Abel had faith in the Sacrifice. Maybe he fully didn't understand every detail, but he understood that the shed blood of the Lamb would make him right before the Father. He believed that. For us that is where our Faith begins, in the shed blood of the Lamb. We have studied for 10 chapters the blood of Jesus. That he was both the offering, and the High Priest.

All Faith, our faith, begins with saying, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain".

Revelation 5:12 (NKJV)¹² saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

Faith for Righteousness

Here in the Book of Hebrews, it tells us that basically Able was offering a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, because of faith. And it is the difference between offering in faith and not offering in faith that made a difference before God and caused God to accept Abel's and reject Cain's.

And by that, he obtained the witness that he was righteous. Now it is interesting that from the beginning, God accounted faith for righteousness. And it begins way back with Able because Able offered a sacrifice in faith. He was accounted righteous. He has the witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gift, that is, accepting his gift.

Faith Looking Forward / Gen 3:15 / Ish 53

Now, in the Old Testament, their faith was looking forward. You see, God had promised unto Eve that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. That is, the promise of the Messiah, who would defeat Satan's power (Gen 3:15). And so when Cain was born, she said she named him Cain, because she said, I have received the man, not a man, but the man from the Lord. She really thought that Cain would be the Messiah! That God was going to immediately make provision for their sin. But it turned out that He was just the opposite, he was a man of sin. But, the Old Testament saints believed the promise that God would send the Messiah into the world. And they looked forward to that event. They believed that the Messiah would suffer and die for sin.

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Isaiah the prophet said, all we like sheep have gone astray! We've turned every one of us to our own way! But God has laid on Him, the iniquity of us all, talking about the Messiah. And He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. God cried out in that fifty-third chapter, for the transgressions of My people, was He smitten. And so they by faith, looked forward to the promise of God of sending the Messiah, who would offer the sacrifice for sin. And by their believing that, God accounted their faith in Christ, though He had not yet come, He accounted their faith in the Messiah for their righteousness.

Isaiah 53:1–12 (NKJV) ¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ **But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.** ⁶ **All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.** ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Position through Provision: The doctrinal summation, our "Position" (sons/daughters of God), through the "Provision" (Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world).

Through Abraham's Seed

It is interesting that with Abraham, at the place, where it says and God accounted his faith for righteousness, was when God told Abraham to go out and look up into the heavens and see the stars that could not be counted. And God promised to Abraham that the stars in heaven were innumerable, so shall thy seed be! Seed, singular!

Genesis 15:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." ⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

And Paul tells us in Galatians 3:16 that God said, seed, singular, as of one, and not seeds as of many. And that seed was Christ!

(Galatians 3:16 NKJV) Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

And it says that Abraham believed God! He believed God's what? That God's promise would be fulfilled and that from his seed, that is the Messiah would come, and that from that, this glorious, innumerable, throng of people be brought into the family of God. He believed God's promise and God accounted that for righteousness. But the promise of the Messiah.

We Look back at the Cross

Now we, are accounted righteous by faith, not by works! But our faith looks back at the cross and at the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins. And of course, as we have been coming through Hebrews, we've been studying the cross of Jesus and we've been studying the sacrifice that He has made. And we have been seeing how that it is superior to the first covenant under the law, the sacrifices of the animals and all, because it was not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin, all they could do was cover. But Jesus, through His death, put away our sins. We look back at the cross. And as we believe in Jesus, God accounts our faith for righteousness.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

So Abel, Abraham, and the rest before the cross were saved just like we are saved, except that they were looking forward and believing that God would keep the promise. We're looking backward. We acknowledge, yes, God kept His promise! He sent the Messiah into the world! He died for our sins. He was the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world!

(Hebrews 11:39 NKJV) And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

They Had to Wait

So God has provided a better thing for us that they without us should not be made perfect. They could not come into the completed state of salvation under the Old Testament laws of sacrifices. It was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin. They could not enter into heaven before the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus! They were being kept in a holding cell, so to speak.

Thief on the Cross

When Jesus was on the cross, and the thief said remember me when you enter into your kingdom, and Jesus said today you will be with me in paradise. Jesus was not talking heaven, for no person could enter into heaven until after His resurrection, He was talking Abraham's Bosom:

(Luke 23:42 NKJV) Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

(Luke 23:43 NKJV) And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Luke 16

You remember in Luke 16:19-31, that there was a certain rich man who fared sumptuously every day. Moreover there was a poor man who was brought daily and was laid at his gate. He was full of sores. The dogs licked his sores. And he survived off the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. And the poor man died and was carried by the angels into **Abraham's bosom**. Moreover the rich man also died and in hell, lifted up his eyes, being in torment. And seeing Abraham afar off and Lazarus being comforted in his bosom, cried, father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus unto me that he may take his finger and dip it in water. Touch my tongue because I'm tormented in this heat! He said send Lazarus to my 5 brothers to preach so that they may not come to this terrible place, but Abraham said if they will not believe the prophets, they won't believe someone who comes back from the dead.

(Luke 16:23 NKJV) "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

(Luke 16:24 NKJV) "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

Abraham would Comfort Those who Mourned

The Old Testament saints, they all died in faith, not having received the promise. They weren't able yet to enter into heaven. But when Jesus came and paid the price, the perfect, complete sacrifice, once and for all. When He died, he descended to where Abraham was comforting those in the promises of God. How fitting that Abraham should be the one. The man of faith—the one who is held up above the others as the man of faith, was promised to him that through his faith, all of the nations of the earth would be blessed! And he believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. He was, no doubt, there saying, don't worry, God is going to keep His promise. The Messiah will come!

Ephesians 4

Paul tells in Ephesians four, that He who has ascended, that is Jesus, is the same One, who first of all descended into the lower parts of the earth. But when He ascended, He led captives from the captivity and He gave gifts unto men!

Ephesians 4:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."⁹ (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Jesus Preached to the Souls in Prison

So Jesus preached to those souls in prison, the glorious truths that God has kept His Word, the sacrifice has been made! Heaven's door is now opened unto those who believe! You can enter into the Kingdom of God, because the price of redemption is now paid!

And so Peter tells us that Jesus went to preach to those souls who were in prison.

(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

(1 Peter 3:19 NKJV) *by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,*

He Preached Isaiah 61

I believe Jesus preached Isaiah 53 and 61 to them, for He quoted it when He preached in the synagogue in Nazareth, to let all know His ministry, the glorious ministry (Luke 4:18-19):

(Isaiah 61:1 NKJV) *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*

(Isaiah 61:2 NKJV) *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,*

(Isaiah 61:3 NKJV) *To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."*

Jesus said I'm trading your ashes for beauty, He said that to them, and He says it to us today. He loves you, do you realize that, He loves you so much.

Jesus would show them the Scars

Oh what a glorious time that must have been as Jesus showed to them, no doubt, the marks of the cross and His suffering and the fact that He had died, paid the price for their redemption! And thus, that portion of the prophecy of Isaiah, which told about the Messiah, who was going to come. How that He would set at liberty, those that were bound and open the prison door, which He did. He led the captives from their captivity on into the heavenly kingdom. So they, without us, that is, without the work of Jesus, could not come into the perfected state. But now God has made possible for us, that entrance into heaven. We don't have to wait! To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord! So we look forward to that city, that Abraham was looking for—the Kingdom of God! And we pray Lord, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. And I can assure you that God keeps His word. And one day the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah! And He shall reign forever and forever! Hallelujah, hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

So Abel is the first one who is declared, in the Scriptures, to be accounted righteous because of his faith. For every person to be a person of faith, it has to start with having faith in the Lamb.

The Wreckage of Life & and the Heroic Father

It was about two years ago, we went down to visit family in Florida. And we said, "You know what? Let's just drive it. And then we'll camp in South Carolina and we'll stay there for a couple days and just camp," because we love the outdoors. And it was late December and it was just perfect weather in the Carolinas as always. And so we stopped at a KOA and we pitched our tent and we were there and we were enjoying our time of camping.

And there at the KOA, up at the camp store, they made these great pizza. So Renee says, "Let's have pizza." Or maybe it was me, probably me If it's something to do with food and pizza. And I said, "I'm going to go down to the camp store." And Camden says, "I'll go with you." So, me and Camden go down to the camp store to get the pizza. Renee's at the camp site. And here is our camp site, and it was down at kind of at the middle of a hill and they're gravel hills. They're not paved roads. But it was a sharp road that would come from the up, big loop and sharp come down.

So here, me and Camden, and we're coming back from getting the pizza and we're walking. And you can almost hear it just developing and it was like this slow motion world started to come in. We start hearing this noise. So we look up and we see these three boys in a very expensive golf cart. When people camp year round at these places like KOA, they don't buy this golf cart like down here at Compass Point. I mean, they buy several thousand dollars golf carts, big battery powered golf carts and whatnot.

And so we hear the noise and what it was, one of the boys, three teenage boys, one of them that was his family's golf cart. He let the other boy switch and drive who had never driven a golf cart before. And so

he's going to ... He is a teenager, right? He's got full pedal to the metal. They're going, and then he's coming up on the bend and he's like, "Okay, well, I'm going to make this bend." He has no idea about gravity and motion and all these type of things.

So he tries to make this bend. I'm telling you this golf cart is probably going 40. And he tries to make this bend in the gravel doing like 40, and you can just start to hear it. And then you look up and you just start to see it. And your first thing is, "Oh, my goodness, is this happening what I think is happening?"

And of course, he can't make the bend. They're going down the hill. The golf cart flips. The golf cart flips. We see one boy get tossed out. Two more left, boom, boom, boom, flip, flip. Roof crushes in. And then it comes to the stop, after all this noise, literally right in front of our campsite.

Then I hear the prayer that reaches heaven. It's my wife who's standing there. It happens right in front of her. "Oh, my God, help them, save them. Someone call 911," but she's crying out to the Lord. Me and Camden see it, and all I see is this mangling. So I take off sprinting. This has nothing to do with the story, but for whatever reason, Renee likes this part of the story. I'm running with the pizza, because I didn't know what else to do with the pizza. I'm running with the pizza because I don't know what to do with the pizza.

Then I run up there. There's Renee and I handed her pizza because now I got to jump in and get underneath of this thing for whatever it is. But when it was all over, man, my stress was up here. I ate that whole pizza in like five minutes. That's what I do to comfort myself, if you ever wonder why. And these two boys are trapped under there. And one, he's still standing but his legs pinned under the golf cart and the one, he's totally underneath of it. He's totally trapped underneath of it.

Now, it's downhill. Got this gravity thing going over and above him are the batteries and they're all busted open. These batteries are ready to pour out on the boy who's underneath of it. If the cart moves downward, he's going to be covered with acid. So I step in under the cart and by the way, this isn't going to be a hero story just to let you know.

I step underneath the cart. And then I bridge myself that I can put my back on what's left of the hood thing, the canopy. And I tap on both. I go, "Listen," I'm tapping the one underneath who's caught underneath the whole thing. I go, "I don't want you to move." I go, "You just stay here. Do not move."

And I tap the one who's standing and I go, "Listen. Now, listen, I'm going to lift up. And when I lift up, pull your leg out and you slide out." And I tap the boy underneath, I go, "When I lift up, you don't move. Let him out. You just stay. Don't panic. It's going to be okay." So I push up, make like six inches, tap him. He slides out, so we got this other one.

And so I'm in this place that I can't push the cart using gravity because then I would push all the acid over him. So I have to push the cart up. And in my mind, I got the power and the strength to do this. And I go, "I'm going to lift. And when I lift, you crawl out. I'm going to lift it up."

And I start to lift. And soon as I start to lift, I come to the realization, I do not have the power and strength to push this thing off of this boy. As we were running, as we were seeing this thing unfold, I remember running. And then at that moment, I'm saying, "I'm going to watch a kid die before my very eyes and I'm going to be right in the middle of it."

And then out of the peripheral vision, I see the group of people that are starting to run now. I don't know how many people there were, but they were running. But through the cloudiness of all of them, there was one that just totally became crystal clear to me. And it was the one who was leading the pack and coming with a passion and a purpose. And I knew immediately, here comes dad. And I'm telling you, I got a hundred pounds on him, easy.

And he came running and he jumped in beside me. And without me even giving the push by himself, he pushed that whole cart up and off, several hundred pound cart up and off of his son to rescue his son.

And it just spoke so much of me. Even in all my well intent to try to save this boy, I did not have the strength at all. But the heart of the father far exceeded anything of any common man. As the heart of this father came, he could lift mountains to free his son.

And I just saw such a beautiful picture at that moment of our Father in heaven. There you are pinned under the wreckage of your life, pinned under the wreckage of the fall, pinned under being trapped with death or acid spilling upon you. And yet with my heart, I came and I did in one heave, lifted this sin and I did it through a across to rescue you, because I desired you. I want to dine with you and I want to make you whole.

And all of our faith comes down and starts with that. It's not the faith that believe in creation. It's the faith that believe that worthy is the Lamb. And Christian, if you can just simply believe, worthy is the Lamb on what He's done, then all the other stuff that's before you, then you can step forward in faith and believe He'll do.

Do you want to be made well? You start with believing of the heave of the mighty Father in heaven and what He did to rescue you. Then you can step forward and go, "That's nothing what's before me compared to what you did. But if you could lift the wreckage of this fallen world off of me, surely, then you can come and make me whole."

You want to put your marriage back together? You want to put that addiction that binds you? You want to put that guilt that you can't get over? You want to fill in the blank? We all have a blank to fill in. If you will come and start with the simple faith that worthy is the Lamb, my position, son and daughter secured through the provision. The Lamb of God, because it's always been a Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, then there is nothing, nothing, that He won't do and can't do. But your part, yes Lord, I want to be made well.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need